Approved For Release 2001/11/20 : CIA-RDP79M00467A0002

76-9443/A

18 June 1976

Mr. John A. McCone 1100 Oak Grove Avenue San Marino, California

Dear Mr. McCone:

It was good to see you recently and to hear firsthand your views and suggestions as to how to move into the future. As I told you, I do think that the new arrangements flowing from the Executive Order and from the new and more supportive sentiments that exist on the Hill provide us with a fresh opportunity to resolve some long-standing problems in the intelligence profession.

You mentioned

I have looked

into this and found that this man is indeed an extremely well qualified expert on Soviet and American defense policy.

The current intention is that he will join us as an intelligence analyst to be assigned to one of the DDI's new and experimental components, one known as the Strategic Evaluation Center.

This center is a very small unit composed of the best brain power we can assemble to help us make net assessments, that is, evaluating the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the military forces of the East and West. Involved in this very important work is the difficult area of trying to determine what Soviet and Chinese perceptions

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are concerning American military forces. These perceptions can be very important in making judgments about the nature of our forces. For example, if the army is very proud of its tanks and we have evidence the Soviets regard them as inferior, that can have an impact on the decisions we make about possible improvements in our tank forces.

As you know, our own stringent clearance procedures, including the polygraph, medical examinations and all the rest, could stand in the way of this man's ultimate arrival in our midst. But, at this writing, the situation looks good and if and when he joins us, he will be employed in one of the most interesting and challenging components we have.

All good wishes to you and Mrs. McCone. We look forward to seeing you again.

Faithfully yours,

E. H. Knoche

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So far, all is going well; but I don't need to tell you that there is a certain amount of breakage in the polygraph/security investigation field as well as from the medical examination.

(Signed) F. W. M. Janney

F. W. M. Janney

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8 June 1976

NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

Fred:

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John McCone visited us today and had some very good things who is the son of to say about a young man named STATINTL -- a friend of McCone's. The son

He is now awaiting clearance.

I would like to write McCone about this. What kind of guy do we think we have here? Where will he be assigned? At what grade? And, what is the prognosis for his EOD?

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E. H. Knoche

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Barb--

FYI, Bob Kennedy called to say that we are indeed considering a position with the Agency, and it looks pretty favorable for a GS-11 slot with OSR--subject, of course, to necessary medical and security clearances.

Patty
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